

The Clayton News

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND THE UPBUILDING OF THE COMMUNITY.

VOLUME VIII.

CLAYTON, NEW MEXICO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1915.

NO. 52.

UNION COUNTY'S FIRST EDITOR DIES AT CLOVIS

Jas. E. Curren issued "Idea" from Shop Under the Trees. Moved Land Office From Folsom.

Jas. E. Curren, founder of the Clayton Enterprise and for thirty-five years prominent in New Mexico newspaper and political circles died at Clovis December 18 of pneumonia.

Perhaps no newspaper man within the state is better known than was Mr. Curren. He was a pioneer in the New Mexico newspaper game, having established, it is estimated, as many as twenty papers many of which are now prosperous country weeklies. He was for several years editor of the Clayton Enterprise, "The Deming Headlight, and papers at Folsom, Farmington, Albuquerque and one at Elephant Butte Dam, known as the Dam News, were among his ventures. The most active part of his newspaper career was during the palmy, fast and loose days of the territory when the country weekly business was a precarious one viewed from any angle.

Mr. Curren was a series of characters, all rolled into one. He made hosts of friends, also many enemies due in a large measure to the fact that the columns of his newspapers and his best efforts as a writer were always at the disposal of the oppressed. When defending the poor man whom he thought trampled on by his more powerful neighbor Mr. Curren was at his best and which was the source of many incidents, which, as he related them, were often narrow escapes from bodily injury. Mr. Curren had a hobby of selecting original names for his publications one of which caused his downfall in a town near Albuquerque during the days when publicity was not greatly desired. He called his paper "Gringo and Greaser" and after the first few issues, to use Mr. Curren's expression, "they chased me out."

Moved Land Office to Clayton

One of his most novel experiences transpired in Union county when Clayton was nothing more than a wide place in a cow trail, and where Folsom now stands, the only other railroad station, at which place the U. S. Land Office was located with Mr. J. C. Slack as register. Mr. Curren stopped at Clayton looking for work on a newspaper. There being no paper here at that time he went on to the future Folsom, managed to get hold of a printing plant which he set up beneath a bunch of trees there being no building in which to quarter it. From beneath the trees was published the first copy of the "Folsom Idea." It was here that Mr. Curren nearly verified the literal truth of the familiar verse: "He moved into the wilderness the prince of fools they crowned him—but when he got his paper out they built a town around him." Shortly after the Chamberlain Investment Co. built a big resort hotel. Folsom boomed for a time but went flat later and with the closing of the hotel the coming city took a serious slide. It was then that Mr. Curren decided that Clayton would be a much better location for the U. S. Land Office than Folsom. He agitated it in the paper and one night the land office disappeared and Mr. Curren deserted the town which he had helped to build and which he had named in honor of President Grover Cleveland's bride. Both Mr. Curren and the land office came to Clayton.

Mr. Curren was always a staunch democrat and fought that party's battles valiantly. At the time of his death he was political editor of the Clovis News of which his son is owner.

J. B. Johnson of Neosho, Mo., arrived this week for a visit with his brothers, Dewey and Walter Johnson.

E. R. Glenn of Ft. Worth, arrived in Clayton this week for an indefinite stay. Mr. Glenn is in poor health and hopes the New Mexico climate will improve it.

A. F. Church is spending the holidays at Guymon, Oklahoma.

Geo. V. Hagan of west of town, was here Thursday trading and attending to business. While here Mr. Hagan had his subscription to the popular paper advanced another year.

Christmas with "Uncle Charlie"

Chas. Bushnell and family, Rose and George Bushnell and Mr. and Mrs. Paz Valverde, were Christmas guests of "Uncle" Chas. Bushnell at the ranch at Beenhaim. Christmas time at "Uncle" Charlie's is an "event of your life" is the verdict of all who have been fortunate enough to partake in the former festivities.

SHOP WINDOWS PRETTILY DECORATED FOR HOLIDAYS

City's Electrical Display at Herzstein's a Show Itself—Wade Treats the Kids.

Shop windows in Clayton were as gay as the gayest at Christmas time, local window artists doing credit to themselves.

One of the most interesting was the City of Clayton's display in the spacious windows of the Simon Herzstein Ready-to-wear store. Many of the very latest electrical jiggers that are intended to lighten domestic burdens, were on display and some of them in practical operation. A little portable motor attached to a sewing machine ambled merrily on, fast or slow at the touch of a button. There were electrical heaters, the kind that make a soft, spoony glow and others for married folks; electric irons and the "hot water bottle" which no well-regulated household should be without and to make the display attractive for old and young alike a small electric "steam" engine raced around a circular track. Chas. Claggett, city electrician, was responsible for the window and did a good job.

Geo. H. Wade squared himself with all the kids in the country by making Santa Claus perform in one of his display windows. Old St. Nick handed out treats right and left to the youngsters. Mr. Wade also had some tastefully decorated windows with holiday goods.

A. H. Dean played strong on Union County's sweet tooth and his window decorated entirely with candy and fake snow made a pretty appearance.

Robt. Isaacs' big windows appealed to the kids and hunters. Window trimmers at this store have the knack of making rifle shells, guns, stuffed bob-cats and things look so attractive that the passing crowd stops, looks and longs for the tall pines and a tent.

L. C. O. Dunn and Tim Vigil at Rose's Pharmacy had no mercy on a poor "Kewpie." They chased it on a pond amid snow-laden rocks. And they didn't even put a kimono on it.

The Otto-Johnson hardware windows were among the best. Backings of Navajo blankets with a cedar Christmas tree illuminated with tiny varied colored incandescents made a nice appearance. This firm had on display many modern electrical appliances.

Sammy Home for Christmas

Sammy Gray, who has been attending the State Military School at Roswell, arrived Thursday to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gray. Sammy will not stay for the new year as his vacation is for but five days. This is his second year and he expects to finish in the spring which will make him eligible to second lieutenant commission in the U. S. army.

WE JOIN YOU IN GLADNESS

The News has had a prosperous year, as has every other worthy business in Clayton and Union county; as has every farmer and stock raiser; we are therefore pleased to extend you the compliments of the season, wish you a continuance of prosperity, and thank you most heartily for the patronage and good will shown us during the finished year, and ask for a continuance of the same during the year ahead of all.

The News has been made a better paper during 1915, one, we believe, that the town and county can take pride in. During 1916 it will endeavor to further improve. Newspaper work is our pride, and to produce the best in our line our ambition. Treat us in the future as you have in the past and we will guarantee you a paper in keeping with the town and county's increased activities and importance.

FARM AND ITS BUSINESS WORTHY OF REAL PAPER

Nice Stationery Goes to Rancho Where Latch String Dangles from Outer Side.

Don Francisco Miera of Miera, was a business visitor and trader in the county seat Tuesday and Wednesday. While here Don Francisco had us print a nice lot of stationery for his ranch. Every farmer and stockman should have printed stationery advertising his business. It doesn't cost as much as the blank stationery one buys at the stores, the only difference is that one buys it in quantities. Who will be the next to emulate Don Francisco's example? It might not be amiss to mention that Don Francisco's ranch is one of the best in the county, and from experience, the editor can vouch for the fact that it is a capital place to visit. The latch string hangs on the outside, and any time this editor is in that neck of the woods he's going to pull it.

Don Juan C. Martinez of Des Moines, one of the wheat kings of Union county and a mighty good friend of The News man, spent several days in the county seat this week. Don Juan reports his section in a prosperous condition. He is the kind of booster that swears his town is the best one on earth. We are for him.

Patricio Romero of near Sampson, was in the city Thursday. While here Mr. Romero received a telegram informing him that his wife who was on a visit to her parents at Maxwell, in Colfax county, had died very suddenly that morning. He left on the evening train for Maxwell to attend the funeral.

Miss Oleta Bishop, who has been attending business college at Albuquerque is spending the holidays with her parents. Miss Bishop was winner of a scholarship last year in the contest conducted by the Albuquerque Herald.

Cleveland Barker of south of town one of the real farmers of Union county, attended to business in the city Thursday. While here Mr. Barker had the popular paper sent to his address.

J. M. Haug of near Sedan, one of our good friends and one of the men who are making Union county the leading county of the state, was a business visitor and trader in the city Tuesday.

Lost.—One kitchen cabinet drawer, on December 1st, between Clayton and G. C. Parham ranch. Finder return to News office and receive reward. 18-2L.

Gus Brass of west of town, was here Thursday and Friday attending to business and trading.

Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Field of Thomas are spending Christmas with friends in Clayton.

Weber Store to Move January 1st.

The Weber & Sons Mercantile Co., will move from their quarters in the Easterwood building to the new Herzstein building about January 1. Their new home will afford much more room for the stock which is to be increased. The new building is one of the best in this part of the state, and Webers say they are going to make their establishment second to none.

CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL IS TENTATIVELY ACCREDITED

Will Remain on List if Teaching Force and Equipment is Increased. Other School Notes.

Dr. Boyd of the State University writes that while the Clayton High school is not on the accredited list because of lack of teachers, room and equipment, yet students who graduate and who are recommended by the superintendent may enter the University without examination. The state board has placed the high school on the list tentatively until it shall be determined if there is to be an increase in teaching force, room and equipment.

John L. Layton writes from California that his certificate from the Clayton High school will be accepted for entrance to the University of California and that he will enter there next year. John is the best of fellows and a good student.

Vacation commences Friday and lasts one week.

Several of the rooms will have Christmas trees and programs. The high school will have a program.

The flag is again up. The boys want a larger flag. The placing of the flag was due mainly to Vincent Steele who climbed the pole after nailing blocks for foot-holds.

We have added recently several new books to the library, and some of our public-spirited citizens have given books and money for the library.

The attendance continues good when we consider the amount of sickness that is among the pupils.

Many of the high school pupils will go home for Christmas. Those who live from eight to thirty-five miles away are: Ethel Fitzgerald, Lulu Cunningham, Maria Elkins, Edith Bair, Sam Edmondson, Leah Caldwell, Mary Barton, Clarina Long, Apolonio Vigil, John Farris, Thomas Gentry.

There are five grades doing domestic science work under the efficient direction of Miss Hutchings.

The exhibit work has been returned from Albuquerque and will be placed on exhibition after vacation so that parents and patrons may see it.

Miss Loveless, a former teacher of the second grade, visited the school on Tuesday.

We do not have many visitors but we are glad always to welcome them.

Elkins Buys Smith Shoe Stock

Elmer Elkins, merchant at Reyes in the southern part of the county, was in the city Tuesday and Wednesday. While here Mr. Elkins closed a deal for the G. C. Smith stock of shoes and packed them for freighting to his store at Reyes. The stock invoiced about \$2,000 and it will enable Mr. Elkins to give his customers a much wider range of selection in footwear. He returned home Thursday.

MASONS TO HAVE SWELL BANQUET IN RATHSKELLER

Order to Spend \$1,000 for One Evening's Entertainment for Members and Families.

What is styled the swellest affair ever pulled off in the broad, fair and prosperous state of New Mexico is slated for January 5 with the local order of Masons engineering the business. It is to be a banquet, set to music, with a ball, (not a dance) afterward. The Masons are prepared for an expenditure of \$1,000 to make it come up to advance notices.

The rathskeller of the new Herzstein building is the banquet room and the dancers will perform on the first floor.

The banquet ball was started rolling at the Masonic lodge room Saturday night after the election of officers. Christian Otto, we are told, made a speech that awakened the spending tendencies of everybody present. Before the meeting adjourned more money was ready to be spent than most folks are accustomed to think about.

The affair is for Masons and their families. The best invitations that a Denver engraving company can turn out have been ordered.

MASONS ELECT OFFICERS

The annual election of officers of the A. F. & A. M., to preside for 1916, was held Saturday night. The following officers were elected: slated for installation St. John's D. Monday evening, December 27. A positive officers will be announced that night by Worshipful Master elect Kilburn:

F. P. Kilburn, W. M.
John L. Hill, S. W.
D. A. Paddock, J. W.
M. C. Johnson, Treas.
M. P. Harvey, Sec'y.

Election of Eastern Star officers was held Friday night. Installation will take place at the Masonic hall Tuesday night, December 28. The following officers will preside for the ensuing year:

Mrs. O. P. Easterwood, W. M.
G. R. Brown, W. P.
Mrs. F. P. Kilburn, A. M.
Mrs. D. A. Paddock, Conductress.
Mrs. Chas. Suthers, Assistant Con.
Mrs. J. M. Winchester, Treas.
Mrs. Jos. Gill, Secretary.

Miss Nicholson Marries

Miss Kate L. Nicholson and Julius Zeigler, of Shamrock, Texas, were married at the court house Thursday, December 23, Rev. Ray Spotts Dum officiating.

Mrs. Zeigler had lived in Clayton for the past year and had many friends here who wish her all happiness.

Mr. Zeigler is a prosperous young business man. He is manager of the El Mate Tea Co., at Shamrock, at which place Mr. and Mrs. Zeigler will make their home.

The Misses Bristol took the couple in the Bristol car to Tealine Thursday where they boarded the train for Shamrock.

Officer and Prisoner Marooned

The chase for John Hook, alleged builder of bad checks, which dates from October 6, ended upon the arrest of Hook at Maple Hill, Kansas, a short time ago.

Sheriff T. J. Crumley left for Maple Hill the first of the week to take Hook into custody but Mr. Crumley is marooned in the Kansas town with his prisoner awaiting arrival of requisition papers from Santa Fe. An error in the papers caused the delay as they had to return to the New Mexico capital for correction.

Hook, it is reported, gave a check at the Elklund hotel for \$25 with no funds to back it up.

Dave Shultz of Wanette, was a business visitor in the city Thursday.